



# WINCHESTER

## Middlesex County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Conveniently located just eight miles northwest of Boston, the Town of Winchester has developed from its seventeenth century colonial village beginnings into a thriving residential community noted for its fine public school system, beautiful homes and easy access to Boston.

Settled in the early 1600's by citizens from Charlestown, the village was first known as Waterfield and became part of Woburn, the neighboring city to the North.

Originally an agricultural community with upland farms on the western side of town near Lexington, the tiny village of 200 settlers evolved into a bustling mill town, with the advent of the Middlesex Canal and the Boston and Lowell Railroad (now Boston and Maine commuter rail) in the early 1800's. Grist mills, tanneries and small factories along the banks of the Aberjona River created a lively industrial village.

The Village declared its independence from Woburn in 1850, and the town fathers honored a local gentleman, Colonel William P. Winchester, by giving the new town his name.

The late 1800's saw the development of Winchester as an affluent suburban community, as wealthy businessmen from Boston moved out to "the country" and built substantial homes. The town's character is still largely reflected in the beautiful houses built just before and after the turn of the century.

The village atmosphere remains, however, fueled by the unusual civic spirit of Winchester's residents. The citizens of the town take a deep interest in the management of the town's affairs and in its continued improvement and beautification. Local organizations produce annual events which have become traditions and part of the Winchester way of life.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Woburn on the north, Stoneham and Medford on the east and southeast, Arlington on the south, and Lexington on the west. The Aberjona River, Mystic Lake, and several ponds are located in Winchester. Winchester is 8 miles north of Boston, 9 miles north of Waltham, 18 miles south of Lowell, and 225 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 6.29 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 6.04 sq. miles

**Population:** 20,267

**Density:** 3,355 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lexington, Boston North

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 721-7133

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Representative Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1850

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

|                   | Number | %    |   |
|-------------------|--------|------|---|
| Total Registered  | 13,514 |      |   |
| Democrats         | 4,733  | 35.0 | % |
| Republicans       | 2,708  | 20.0 | % |
| Other parties     | 5      | 0.0  | % |
| Unenrolled Voters | 6,068  | 44.9 | % |

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Winchester town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

| Subject   | Number | Percent | Subject  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|--|--------|---------|
| Total population.....                           | 20,810 | 100.0   | HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE                          |        |         |
| SEX AND AGE                                     |        |         | Total population.....                                | 20,810 | 100.0   |
| Male.....                                       | 9,792  | 47.1    | Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....                | 211    | 1.0     |
| Female.....                                     | 11,018 | 52.9    | Mexican.....   | 25     | 0.1     |
| Under 5 years.....                              | 1,529  | 7.3     | Puerto Rican.....                                    | 40     | 0.2     |
| 5 to 9 years.....                               | 1,584  | 7.6     | Cuban.....   | 11     | 0.1     |
| 10 to 14 years.....                             | 1,459  | 7.0     | Other Hispanic or Latino.....                        | 135    | 0.6     |
| 15 to 19 years.....                             | 1,037  | 5.0     | Not Hispanic or Latino.....                          | 20,599 | 99.0    |
| 20 to 24 years.....                             | 654    | 2.7     | White alone.....                                     | 19,222 | 92.4    |
| 25 to 34 years.....                             | 2,060  | 9.9     | RELATIONSHIP   |        |         |
| 35 to 44 years.....                             | 3,633  | 17.5    | Total population.....                                | 20,810 | 100.0   |
| 45 to 54 years.....                             | 3,241  | 15.6    | In households.....                                   | 20,426 | 98.2    |
| 55 to 59 years.....                             | 1,195  | 5.7     | Householder.....                                     | 7,715  | 37.1    |
| 60 to 64 years.....                             | 972    | 4.7     | Spouse.....  | 4,944  | 23.8    |
| 65 to 74 years.....                             | 1,645  | 7.9     | Child.....   | 6,612  | 31.8    |
| 75 to 84 years.....                             | 1,257  | 6.0     | Own child under 18 years.....                        | 5,171  | 24.8    |
| 85 years and over.....                          | 654    | 3.1     | Other relatives.....                                 | 612    | 2.9     |
| Median age (years).....                         | 41.1   | (X)     | Under 18 years.....                                  | 142    | 0.7     |
| 18 years and over.....                          | 15,468 | 74.3    | Nonrelatives.....                                    | 543    | 2.6     |
| Male.....                                       | 7,066  | 33.9    | Unmarried partner.....                               | 194    | 0.9     |
| Female.....                                     | 8,412  | 40.4    | In group quarters.....                               | 384    | 1.8     |
| 21 years and over.....                          | 15,118 | 72.6    | Institutionalized population.....                    | 370    | 1.8     |
| 62 years and over.....                          | 4,101  | 19.7    | Noninstitutionalized population.....                 | 14     | 0.1     |
| 65 years and over.....                          | 3,556  | 17.1    | HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE                                    |        |         |
| Male.....                                       | 1,400  | 6.7     | Total households.....                                | 7,715  | 100.0   |
| Female.....                                     | 2,156  | 10.4    | Family households (families).....                    | 5,721  | 74.2    |
| RACE  |        |         | With own children under 18 years.....                | 2,755  | 35.7    |
| One race.....                                   | 20,567 | 98.8    | Married-couple family.....                           | 4,944  | 64.1    |
| White.....                                      | 19,375 | 93.1    | With own children under 18 years.....                | 2,449  | 31.7    |
| Black or African American.....                  | 142    | 0.7     | Female householder, no husband present.....          | 614    | 8.0     |
| American Indian and Alaska Native.....          | 29     | 0.1     | With own children under 18 years.....                | 254    | 3.3     |
| Asian.....                                      | 961    | 4.6     | Nonfamily households.....                            | 1,994  | 25.8    |
| Asian Indian.....                               | 256    | 1.2     | Householder living alone.....                        | 1,693  | 21.9    |
| Chinese.....                                    | 399    | 1.9     | Householder 65 years and over.....                   | 811    | 10.5    |
| Filipino.....                                   | 27     | 0.1     | Households with individuals under 18 years.....      | 2,845  | 36.9    |
| Japanese.....                                   | 99     | 0.5     | Households with individuals 65 years and over.....   | 2,278  | 29.5    |
| Korean.....                                     | 109    | 0.5     | Average household size.....                          | 2.65   | (X)     |
| Vietnamese.....                                 | 13     | 0.1     | Average family size.....                             | 3.13   | (X)     |
| Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....                  | 58     | 0.3     | HOUSING OCCUPANCY                                    |        |         |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 3      | -       | Total housing units.....                             | 7,908  | 100.0   |
| Native Hawaiian.....                            | 2      | -       | Occupied housing units.....                          | 7,715  | 97.6    |
| Guamanian or Chamorro.....                      | -      | -       | Vacant housing units.....                            | 193    | 2.4     |
| Samoan.....                                     | -      | -       | For seasonal, recreational, or                       |        |         |
| Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....       | 1      | -       | occasional use.....                                  | 48     | 0.6     |
| Some other race.....                            | 57     | 0.3     | Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....                | 0.6    | (X)     |
| Two or more races.....                          | 243    | 1.2     | Rental vacancy rate (percent).....                   | 2.5    | (X)     |
| Race alone or in combination with one           |        |         | HOUSING TENURE                                       |        |         |
| or more other races: <sup>3</sup>               |        |         | Occupied housing units.....                          | 7,715  | 100.0   |
| White.....                                      | 19,599 | 94.2    | Owner-occupied housing units.....                    | 6,212  | 80.5    |
| Black or African American.....                  | 198    | 1.0     | Renter-occupied housing units.....                   | 1,503  | 19.5    |
| American Indian and Alaska Native.....          | 66     | 0.3     | Average household size of owner-occupied units.....  | 2.78   | (X)     |
| Asian.....                                      | 1,082  | 5.2     | Average household size of renter-occupied units..... | 2.08   | (X)     |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 15     | 0.1     |  |        |         |
| Some other race.....                            | 115    | 0.6     |  |        |         |

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

**Rental Assistance** (DHCD 1999)

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Conventional State   | 119 |
| Conventional Federal | 0   |

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| State (MRVP:         | 0   |
| Federal (Section 8): | 143 |



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Winchester is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 38; U.S. Route 3; and Interstate 93, which passes along the eastern border of Winchester and intersects with State Route 128, the inner loop around Boston, in nearby Reading.

### Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from Winchester Center (travel time 17-19 min.; 237 MBTA parking spaces) and Wedgemere (15-16 minutes; 103 spaces). The Springfield Terminal Railway offers freight service to Winchester. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

### Bus

Winchester is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service to neighboring towns and to stations on the Orange and Red Lines. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

### Other

L.G. Hanscom Field, a joint civil-military airport, is located in neighboring Bedford. A Reliever Airport with Commercial Service (CR), it has a 5,106' asphalt runway and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Hanscom Field is an alternate airport to Boston's Logan International Airport.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Winchester Hospital

### Long Term Care

Aberjona Nursing Center, Inc.

Winchester N. Center, Inc.

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Winchester Mt. Vernon Hse.

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.